



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
PROGRAM PLANNING AND INTEGRATION
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

AUG 20 2004

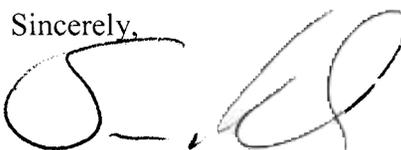
Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, we enclose for your review the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Seabird Interaction Mitigation Methods under the Fishery Management Plan for the Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region and Pelagic Squid Fishery Management under the Fishery Management Plan for the Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region and the High Seas Fishing Compliance Act (DEIS).

Two actions are assessed in this DEIS. The first is aimed at cost-effectively reducing the potentially harmful effects of fishing by Hawaii-based longline vessels on seabirds. The second is aimed at establishing an effective management framework for pelagic squid fisheries in the Pacific, including fishing activities within the exclusive economic zone of the U.S. and on the high seas.

Additional copies of the DEIS may be obtained from William L. Robinson; Regional Administrator; National Marine Fisheries Service; Pacific Islands Regional Office; 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110; Honolulu, HI 96814; telephone 808-973-2937. The document is also accessible electronically through the National Marine Fisheries Service Pacific Islands Regional Office's website at <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/pir/>

Comments or questions on this document submitted during the agency's 45-day public comment period must be received by October 11, 2004. Written comments should be submitted by mail to William L. Robinson; Regional Administrator; National Marine Fisheries Service; Pacific Islands Regional Office; 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110; Honolulu, HI 96814. Comments may be submitted by facsimile (fax) to 808-973-2941. Electronic comments may be submitted by e-mail to DEISseabirdsquid@noaa.gov; include in the comment subject line the following document identifier: seabird-squid DEIS. A copy of your comments should be submitted to me by mail to the NOAA Strategic Planning Office (PPI/SP), SSMC3, Room 15603, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910; by fax to 301-713-0585; or by e-mail to nepa.comments@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Susan A. Kennedy
Acting NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure